

## Small Group Discussion

Participants: Emeka Virgo, Casey Cobb, Ann Ferris, Brittany Perotti, Russell Jarvis, Milly Arciniegas

Why are you here?

Emeka-worked on community clean-up project in fall with UCONN Husky Sport. Part of Family Day Enterprises that conducts family services in North End. Huge summer event in Keney Park. Pond House as a resource.

Milly-wants to see parents more active in children's lives. Works with PTOs across the district to advocate for both children and parents. Work on building relationships with parents and schools.

Russell-lives in North End. Volunteer with youth at Harford City Mission. Starting an organization called Urban Alliance working with network of church groups. Personally invested in seeing HCZ work and sees Urban Alliance as a possible organization to help bring people together to form a network around the HCZ initiative.

Brittany-UCONN graduate student working for Husky Sport. Planned clean-up effort with Emeka Virgo. Works with kids of different ages in school, after school, Saturdays with sports/physical activity, nutrition, life skills, and academic achievement. Started at Clark now expanding to Wish and MLK. Reading program at these three schools where kids read and people pledge \$ per book to go to African HIV/AIDS prevention efforts through Emeka Okafor's foundation.

Ann-Lives in Htfd. Pediatric Nutritionist. Director of UCONN's Center for Public Health and Health Policy. Urban Health Partnership with 338 undergrads working in Htfd. Ready to play a role in the HCZ.

Casey-UCONN Neag School of Education, Center for Educational Policy Analysis. Sees role UCONN students can play with student teachers from Storrs campus and post-graduate program in Hartford.

Lessons from the HCZ: Role of housing, mental health, physical health of the community. Making a school-centered community. Comprehensive approach, even prenatal.

Reflections on HCZ=1. Place-based neighborhood initiative 2. Data-driven practices

Starts with Baby College, to pre-school, to elementary, middle, HS, College

Ann-Community based-research interest

Ann talked about the Promise Academy with 6:1 student to teacher ratio, works because of that ratio, data-driven, freedom from unions

Federal \$ will go to community based organization, not state or school